

In the Claims:

Please cancel claims 1-19.

Please add the following claims:

20. A battery comprising:

a plurality of positive and negative plates;

a first strap sealed to the positive plates;

a second strap sealed to the negative plates;

a first terminal electrically connected to the first strap;

a second terminal electrically connected to the second strap;

at least one of said first and second straps comprising an annular sealing groove about its respective associated terminal;

a container;

a lid sealed to said container, the first and second straps and positive and negative plates being disposed within the sealed lid and container, said lid comprising first and second apertures, the first and second terminals protruding through said first and second apertures, the lid further comprising an annular sealing surface; and

at least one compliant seal disposed between said annular sealing groove and said annular sealing surface.

21. The battery of claim 20 wherein the annular sealing surface includes at least one surface that is substantially parallel to the annular sealing groove.

22. The battery of claim 20 wherein the annular sealing surface comprises a groove in said lid.

23. The battery of claim 20 wherein the annular sealing surface comprises a protrusion.

24. The battery of claim 20 wherein the lid further comprises at least one depression comprising a base, one of said first or second apertures being disposed in said base, the battery further comprising at least one retainer disposed about and engagable with at least one of the terminals, the retainer exerting a downward force on the base.

25. The battery of claim 24 wherein the retainer comprises an internally threaded collar and the at least one of the terminals is externally threaded such that the collar may be threaded onto the at least one of the terminals and tightened to exert a force on the base.

26. The battery of claim 24 further comprising a settable material disposed between the retainer and depression.

27. The battery of claim 20 further comprising a space between one of the terminals and its respective aperture and a settable material disposed within the space.